

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/842,358

Examiner

Daniel A. Nolan

Applicant(s)

VERMEULEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 17 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-9,11-15 and 17-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

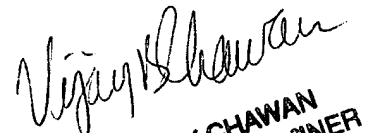
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Part of Paper No./Mail Date 04072

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The filing of 17 June 2004 was applied to the following effect:
 - Claims 6, 10 and 16 are cancelled.
 - Claims 1, 9 and 15 were changed as indicated and examined on the merits.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15 and 17-35 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - The present invention is directed to *distributed speech synthesizing*.
 - Regarding claim 1, the closest prior art of Matsumoto et al³⁶² has the client synthesizing speech signals furnished by the server, but without further parameters, so the feature of selecting parameters of the compression method utilizing a directed optimized search to minimize the amount of data transmitted between the server machine and the client machine was neither anticipated nor was it found in obvious combination in the prior art of record.
 - Regarding claims 9, the closest prior art of Matsumoto et al³⁶² discloses the server *generating prosody data corresponding to the normalized text and transmitting the*

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prosody data to the client machine but fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

- Regarding claim 15, related to the findings for claim 10, above, the feature that the synthesizing or concatenating decompressed acoustic units depending on the prosody data from the server was not found to be anticipated nor was it found in obvious combination in the prior art of reference.
- Claims 2-5, 7-8, 11-14 and 17-35 are allowed because they depend on claims that were allowed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Daniel A. Nolan at telephone (703)305-1368 whose normal business hours are 7AM-5PM, Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri.

If attempts to contact the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, supervisor Richemond Dorvil can be reached at (703)305-9645.

The fax phone number for Technology Center 2600 is (703)872-9314. Label informal and draft communications as "DRAFT" or "PROPOSED", & designate formal communications as "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE". Formal response to this action may be faxed according to the above instructions,

or mailed to: Mail Stop AF (or CPA, etc. – see Official Gazette, 04 November 2003)
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or hand-deliver to: Crystal Park 2,
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA,
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office at telephone number (703)306-03776-0377.

Daniel A. Nolan
Examiner
Art Unit 265454

DAN/d
July 29, 2004



VIJAY CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER